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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/784,778 02/15/01 FAN WONG

T CFP-11803

EXAMINER

MM91/0514

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FIGUEROA, F

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED:

05/14/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 09/784,778	Applicant(s) FAN WONG, TSUI-TUAN	
	Examiner Felix O. Figueroa	Art Unit 2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 February 2001 is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

### Attachment(s)

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|--|--|
| 15) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                   | 18) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.  |
| 16) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)          | 19) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 17) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____. | 20) <input type="checkbox"/> Other:  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Drawings***

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "11" has been used to designate both the connector and the pins, in Figure 2. Correction is required.

### ***Claim Objections***

Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: claim 1 is missing commas in line 3 after "enclosure", in line 5 after "enclosure", in line 5 after "holes", in line 7 after "enclosure", and line 13 after "cover". Appropriate correction is required.

A series of singular dependent claims is permissible in which a dependent claim refers to a preceding claim which, in turn, refers to another preceding claim.

A claim which depends from a dependent claim should not be separated by any claim which does not also depend from said dependent claim. It should be kept in mind that a dependent claim may refer to any preceding independent claim. In general, applicant's sequence will not be changed. See MPEP § 608.01(n).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements. Claim 1 is missing the relationship between the first adapter and the second adapter.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen (US 4,812,956) in view of Shen (US 5,964,518) and Kopenhaver (US 3,775,828).

Chen discloses a connector for a decorative light comprising a first adapter with a female connector having two plated holes, and a resilient first cover (52) formed outside the joint between the connector and the enclosure (1), a second adapter having a male connector provided with two prongs, and a second cover (51) formed on the joint between the connector and the enclosure (1), and a collar. However, Chen does not disclose the pins on the connectors. Shen teaches a male-female connector (22) having first pins (221) electrically connected to plated holes (222) and a male connector (23) having second pins (231) electrically connected to extended prongs (231) to facilitate the connection between the connectors and their respective enclosure. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a male-female connector having first pins electrically connected to plated holes and a male connector having second pins electrically

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connected to extended prongs, as taught by Shen, to facilitate the connection between the connectors and their respective enclosure. Chen does not disclose the collar having an inner thread. Kopenhaver teaches a collar (16) having an inner thread (60) formed to correspond to an outer thread (44) of a second cover (50) to securely connect the collar to the second cover. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a collar having an inner thread, as taught by Kopenhaver, to securely connect the collar to the second cover.

Regarding claim 2, Chen, as modified by Shen, discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the axial depth of the outer thread of the second cover. However, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to make the depth of the outer thread of the second cover a half of the axial depth of the inner thread of the collar, since applicant has not disclosed that such arrangement solves any stated problem or is for any particular purpose.

Regarding claims 3 and 4, Kopenhaver shows a flange (68) on the outer periphery of the first cover to hold the collar with the first adapter when the adapter is connected to the mating adapter. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a flange, as taught by Kopenhaver, to hold the collar with the adapter when the adapter is connected to the mating part.

Regarding claims 5-12, Chen shows a plug (56), having a blind hole, detachably connected to one of the adapters. Chen does not specifically disclose the plug having

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an outer thread. However, Chen discloses the connection between the second adapter and the controlling unit using an outer thread. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to use a similar connection system between the plug and the first adapter.


### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Arndt (US 5,688,041) discloses a connector for a decorative light comprising a first adapter with a female connector (13) having two plated holes, and a resilient first cover (6) formed outside the joint between the connector and the enclosure (2), a second adapter (5) having a male connector (12) provided with two prongs, and a second cover (7) formed on the joint between the connector and the enclosure (2), and a collar (21) slidably mounted having a though hole.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Felix O. Figueroa whose telephone number is (703) 308-0097. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri., 8:00-5:00.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.

ffr  
May 9, 2001

  
**RENEE LUEBKE**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**